THE DISTRICT RULERS

Many Changes Have Occurred in Fifty Years.

GATHERING THE NEWS

THE STAR AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Modern Methods of Reporting Affairs -Influence of the Press is Now Keenly Felt.

By Robert Toombs Small. Half a hundred years ago, when the home of the municipal government was in classic old city hall, now given over in practical entirety to the District courts, and Mayor J. W. Maury was receiving the meager annuity of \$1,600 as the executive head of the national capital, the first edition of The Evening Star was Issued. Since those closing days of 1852 time has wrought many wonderful changes in Washington. The vicissitudes that mark the upbuilding of a metropolitan city have been met and passed through safely. The municipal government and the national government are now in the twenty-fifth year of a compact which seems to assure a future to Washington toward which the residents of the capital, as well as the people of the whole nation, may look with pride and satisfaction.

faithfully traced and portrayed in the files | again. of The Star. The period has been one of unusual newsmaking almost throughout, and it has been the purpose of this paper to follow the affairs here at home to the fullest possible extent. The relationship between The Star and the municipal authorities has always been a close one. As the city has grown so has The Star expanded.

As marked as have been the changes in the form of government in the District of Columbia, they have been no more pronounced than the changes in the methods of newsmaking and newsgathering in municipal circles. The people have been gradually educated up to a revolutionized idea of They have been taught to take an Because at night they become roosters." interest in all the affairs of the home government and are no longer content with the knowledge of the mere fact that the Commissioners have done this or that. They want the circumstances leading up to the action of the Commissioners; they want to be in touch with the views of the authorities on various subjects connected with the city and its improvement; and, what is most important of all, the citizens of the capital are showing a disposition to assist the Commissioners in their dealings with Congress and constantly bring to bear personal influences to supplement the official advocacy.

Through a thorough dissemination of the news features of the on-goings at the District building the people are informed of practically every matter under consideration, and they manifest an appreciation of this phase of newsgathering by writing thousands of letters each year to the Commissioners, offering advice or criticism, as and varied subjects. These very the reports made upon them from the unlarge proportion of the daily routine. In began to appear in print. nearly every instance these communications bear upon some subject in which hundreds of people in addition to the writer may be interested. There are some people in the District who take such a deep interest in the local government as to write to the Commissioners almost daily. Many of these letters or complaints are frivolous. and filed away in ever-increasing volume.

The Change in Conditions.

The change in conditions between 1852 and 1902 in gathering the news of the municipality is indeed pronounced. In '52, and, in fact, for many years after, a call at the mayor's office on the part of "the" reporter every day or so, or as often as convenient. was considered sufficient to garner every whit of news the officials were making or the people wished to hear. Now The Star has a representative whose sole duty it is to remain at the District building from the time of the arrival of the Commissioners at their offices each morning until the paper goes to press. The authorities, too, have recognized the important part the newspaper plays in the affairs of the municipalfty and have assigned a room immediately adjoining that of the president of the District board to the newspaper men, and have placed it completely in their custody.

The education of the people into new and broader ideas of news has not been lost upon the public officials. Many of these have developed the "news sense" to a large affairs can detect the things that will interest the public. The official who really ready to swear by him to the bitter end. news to be had the officials who remember something interesting or amusing in the papers they have handled, or who can hunt about their desks until they run across something that will suggest a "feature story," are the men to be desired in the departments. There are a number of such men at the District building, and they help materially to make readable "copy." The officials of the District have come

to realize the importance and the advantages of having the people interested in at the time. their especial departments. They know that the papers will print all the interestquently it is to their benefit to make the journalism and the old.

fellows had to 'do' the courts as well as the | was written to the editor of The Star makcated in the same building, didn't you?"

used to report the navy yard, the courts, the night hideous and murdered the sleep of the mayor's office, the register's office, the the sick and well alike, was to tax them justices of the peace, the central guard heavily and to have a "dog police" to dishouse, and all the station houses in the pose of every dog whose tax was not wards, fires, murders, suicides, hangings, promptly paid. council meetings, ward meetings and anything else that came in handy. We used

and demand, and then, too, there was in | ber of dogs materially decreased." the fifties and sixtles a happy disregard From this suggestion in The Star and is violet, a color closely allied to red. It

the papers only had two reporters in the long ago, "one working east of 7th street and the other west." All that transpired in these sections must come to his attention. The reporter of that time hadn't channels for newsgathering, such as they

now exist, been established. During the fifties and sixtles the news almost entirely of a report of the proceedings of the common council or the board of | Commissioners for that year were \$1,255,-

The type in use during the sixties was absolutely tiny. And as far as headlines were oncerned, there were very few such things in the paper. Most of the news items were 3.65 bonds, \$544,233.30; street lamps and introduced simply with one or two words in capital letters at the side. Many of the reports of council meetings were quite long, however, and bits of the discussion there-In occurring were given to the public in unique form. At one council meeting a bill for the grading and graveling of 6th street northwest from Pennsylvania avenue to New York avenue was under consideration. The cost of the improvement was a few thousand dollars, but nevertheless one of its opponents made a ringing speech in opposition and declared the council should not undertake a bill of "such magnitude." He declared there were a dozen ways of reaching Pennsylvania avenue from New York avenue and the street in question wasn't much traveled any way.

It was rare, indeed, that a municipal item ever attained to the dignity of having headlines placed above it. In fact, the papers of those days did not possess such a thing as is now termed display type. To make up for this deficiency in setting up an The interesting history of the local gov- ad. the word on which emphasis was deernment during these last fifty years is sired would be repeated over and over

> News items of the sixtles were not so serious as now. The reporter who desired to throw in choice little bits of airy nothingness was not deterred. Each piece of news which was complete in a paragraph was introduced by a pointing hand. In 1864 one of these hands pointed to the fact that-"Wood is \$100 a cord in Richmond."

This is quite staggering, even when compared to the recent high prices paid for fuel. But the people of Richmond, if they received The Star of that day, were not left in the depths. They must have been cheered by the next paragraph, which read thus: "Why do hens always lay in the daytime

That was all. And yet that joke of 1864 puts to shame some of the best efforts of latter-day comic opera stars. At that time and still later there was always a spirit of personal friendship, an atmosphere of comradeship, between the

newspapers and the public. The advertisers took advantage of this and a business reading notice would appear after this fashion: "We notice in the show windows of our good friend Jack Johnson some remarkably handsome shoes and advise all our readers to consult him at once."

In the seventies there was a personal paragraph pervaded by the good humor which marked the writings of those comparatively recent days, and which read:

"Don Platt has returned from his summer ruralizing in Ohio with an amazing red

(sun-burnt) nose The More Modern Paper.

In the seventies The Star had assumed the case may be, and inquiring with regard | much of the modern character of the news- sake of preserving the records each matter paper. Its editorial column was fully es- acted upon is in the shape of a paper, which communications, taken in connection with tablished; the reportorial staff had been increased, and consequently more attention ried by messenger from one Commissioner der-officials and the final action of the Com- was being paid to city news. Something of to another for approval or disapproval, as missioners, create news and constitute a the inner workings of the city government

After 1871 the reporter no longer got his municipal news at the city hall. When the government of the entire District was consolidated in 1871, under the territorial form, and Governor Cooke was at the head of affairs, it was decided to remove the District offices from the city hall. That building had already proved a heavy and When so considered they are simply noted | troublesome burden and even the taking in of the courts as tenants had not relieved the situation very much.

Gov. Cooke desired the offices moved, and so they were. From 1871 until the temporary board of District Commissioners was appointed in 1874 the head of the government was in the building at the northwest corner of 17th street and Pennsylvania avenue. The legislative assembly met in what was known as Metzerott Hall. on Pennsylvania avenue between 9th and 10th streets, where 923 Pennsylvania avenue is now located. The board of public works had offices in the Morrison building on 41/2 street between Pennsylvania avenue and C street. When the temporary Commissioners were appointed in 1874 they soon surrendered the building at 17th street and the avenue, as well as Metzerott Hall, and confined the District offices to the Morrison building, on 41/2 street.

It was at Metzerott Hall that the famous "feather duster" affair took place. Some of the members of the legislative assembly heard prematurely of the passage of the bill in Congress which legislated them, as extent, and in the routine of their office well as the governor and the secretary of the District, out of office. These gentlemen proceeded to the legislative hall and The city fathers took the ground that the 'knows news when he sees it' is the joy began to appropriate the movable property of the newspaper man's life. He makes there to their own uses. Dr. William Tinfriends rapidly and the men who write are dall, the present secretary to the board of Commissioners, was at that time private When the day is dull and there is no real secretary to Gov. Shepherd, and it was to him that the colored janitor ran in breathless haste and announced: "Doctor! They's a-stealin' the legisla-

> tive hall!" When the police arrived on the scene much of the appropriated property had been returned, but one politician had stuffed a feather duster down his trouser legs and could not remove it before being caught. The feathers would not down. The incident created quite a furor of fun

The part that the papers began to play in connection with local affairs and their ining portions of their annual or monthly re- fluence for the people with the government ports to the Commissioners, and conse- is illustrated in the early seventies, when cards and communications to the editor bestatements as attractive as possible. In gan to make frequent appearances. There days of old the report of a city officer was was an agitation in '77 over the dog probhardly ever mentioned. A reference to it | lem, which, by the way, has not yet entirely at a council meeting was flattering atten- downed, for the Commissioners have occation. The printing of these reports now- sionally to deal with it in some way or adays is an evidence of the new interest of other. In 1877 the discussion was evidently the people, of the new idea of news, and started which resulted in the licensing of one of the differences between the new all dogs allowed to run at large in the District. Many complaints were being made "I suppose in the old days," it was sug- concerning the unusual number of canines gested the other day to a newspaper man of | in the city and their penchant for making the time when The Star was young, "you unearthly noises. Then it was that a letter city government offices, since both were lo- ing the suggestion that a simple and easy way to get rid of the hundreds of barking "Boy," replied he, with fine scorn, "I and yelping dogs, which apparently made

"And the best way to tax dogs," the correspondent continued, "Is to tax every householder for at least one dog, if he is red and not black was the favorite mourn-The statement was not overdrawn, not known to own more, and require him to ing color throughout Europe. Even down There's no denying the fact the reporter make affidavit that he did not, and does to the end of the fifteenth century the of long ago covered lots of territory, but not own or harbor one, when he pays the change from blood red to black was not the space at his command was not such as rest of his tax. In this way the city finances complete, though black cloaks were worn the yawning news columns of today offer will be materially increased and the num-

estimates reported by the temporary Commissioners to the Treasury Department for the facilities for newsgathering now at his the expenses of the District government command; he hadn't the co-operation of during the fiscal year 1877-1878. That was Effect of Organized Labor in the news-knowing officials, nor had the the last year during which the whole expense of the District government was paid by the District people, for in 1878 came the compact by which the United States recogof the city government seemed to consist | nized its obligations and agreed to pay onehalf the expenses. The estimates of the

aldermen. The facts that could not be 617.03, exclusive of salaries. The estimates gleaned from these accounts went "un- of the Commissioners to Congress last year gleaned," or else the interested resident were for more than ten millions of dollars. had to make his own inquiry at the proper | The estimates of 1877-1878 were divided as follows: Schools, \$369,776.49; police, \$150,184.74; fire department, \$80,180.70; annual interest on old funded debt, not including that on the

> gas, \$137,686.20; sweeping and cleaning streets and alleys, \$42,193.11; sanitary purposes, board of health, and removing garbage, \$31,322.50. The telling of the estimates required "two sticks," or about four inches of type in the daily newspapers. Nowadays the Commissioners' estimates occupy as many columns in the daily press. The service of The Star at that time, however, was very good indeed. The news of the District government began to take its place of prominence and there would often be more than a column of it,

all told. But there was still the indication

that the headlines of today are of very re-

cent origin, for then a column of good

news would be included under a single line

The modern system of reporting is very complete. The newspaper man who is wise forms friendships with people who are in a position to either give him good news or drop a hint as to where news is to be found. The Commissioners are no doubt very much surprised oftentimes to have a reporter come to them and ask about some matter which they supposed was a close secret. In such instances the Commissioners, as do most of the other public officials, take the newspaper man into their confidence. The "story" may not be "ripe" at that particular time, and so the man of the pen and the authorities carry their secret between them until some afternoon it appears as a "scoop." Public officials are very appreciative of a man in whom they can repose absolute confidence, and when they know he has detected a "story" in the air and has it exclusively they give him the benefit of his energy and alertness by saying nothing on the subject to his competitors unless they should bring up the subject point blank

The press room at the District building is quite a center of interest. The officials having business with the Commissioners often stop in; and it is there that many of the weightiest problems of the day are sagely discussed and decided-at least to the satisfaction of the newsgatherers and their visitors, if not to the highest powers.

Unfailing Vigilance Required.

The present form of government requires infailing vigilance on the part of the newspaper man to keep abreast of what is going on. In days gone by the councils would do certain things on certain nights, and later the legislative assembly had its regular hours for sitting and transacting business. Nowadays the Commissioners have no specified time for taking action on public matters. Their board sessions are usually very informal and may be held in one of the Commissioner's private offices. For the is jacketed in the executive office and car the case may be.

The newspaper men, if they can catch these papers en route, are let into a knowledge of affairs. Some of the papers travel in opaque, sealed envelopes, however, and have a stamp "Not for Publication" on them. Sometimes, however, even the opaque envelopes do not prevent the reporter from knowing the contents. It is then that he brings all his eloquence to bear in the endeavor to convince the official that the matter contained in the paper should really be given to the public. Often a pencil mark through the "Not for Publication" lifts the embargo, and away to his typewriter rushes the newsgatherer and in a short while a fleet messenger is en route to the office with a half column or a column "beat."

The Star has a private telephone wire to the District building press room so that late happenings may be telephoned into the office. In this way news of interest transpiring as late as 3 o'clock or 3:15 o'clock finds a place in the regular edition of the paper which goes to press at 3:30 each afternoon.

Thus while great advances have been made in the methods of District government and the making and collecting of news, the newspaper men at the District building have to regretfully admit that there is one feature of the situation which does not compare with the old days. The city records of a third of a century ago show that the councils would each year, about Christmas time, make appropriations of \$200 each to the reporters assigned to municipal matters. There is no such inducement attached to reporting at the District building today. reporters, by printing various items of news, saved the municipality quite a sum in advertising. Comparing the amount of city news published then with what appears in the papers of today, the reporters figure that at this time they should be receiving annual gifts of about \$10,000. But the public must not be led into believing that they

Intellectual Economy.

Madame de Genlis, in a work on "Time." tells us that the famous Chancellor d'Aguesseau, observing that his wife always delayed ten or twelve minutes before she came down to dinner, and, reluctant to lose so much time daily, began the composition of a work which he prosecuted only while thus kept waiting. At the end of fifteen years a book in three quarto volumes was completed, which ran through three editions, and was held in high repute. Madame de Genlis profited by this example. Having to wait at the dinner hour in the Palais Royal for Madame de Chartres, who was always fifteen or twenty minutes late. she utilized the time by copying a selection

of poems from eminent authors. It is told of a German critic that he could repeat the entire "Iliad" of Homer with scarcely an error. How many years, think you, did he spend in depositing the immortal epic in his brain? Years he had not to spare, or months, or weeks, or even entire days, for he was a physician in the full tide days, for he was a physician in the full tide of practice; but he contrived to store in his memory the twenty-four books of the old bard of "Scio's rocky isle" in the brief, disconnected snatches of time while hurrying from one patient to another. Dr. Mason Good, a celebrated English physician, performed a similar feat, having contrived to translate the whole of Lucretius during his long walks in London to visit his patients.

They Mourn in Red. From the New York Times,

In the dark and part of the middle ages over red clothing. In Abyssinia the mourning color is a reddish brown. In Turkey it

ginning of the present form of government by Commissioners and the growth of The Star along with it is well illustrated by the

the District.

CHANGES IN 50 YEARS

THE CONDITIONS OF THE WORK-ING CLASSES.

The Eight-Hour Law - There Have Been No Serious Labor Strikes in Washington.

By R. D. Harris.

Students of the labor problem find much satisfaction and pleasure in pointing out the instances of the progress of labor unionism in the District of Columbia during the past half century. They concede that it has been phenomenal and astounding, far beyond their expectations. It has kept abreast with the developments of all the institutions which go to make up the capital city. The growth of unionism has been like the victories of a mighty army, its successes having been mingled with setbacks and failures, which at times threat-

ened its existence. Prior to and for several years after that memorable conflict which resulted in the north and south becoming one grand republic for all time to come, labor unionism in this city was a feeble but energetic institution. The conditions have greatly changed and today it is one of the recognized elements of the municipality and exerts an influence which is keenly felt by the public as well as by the em-

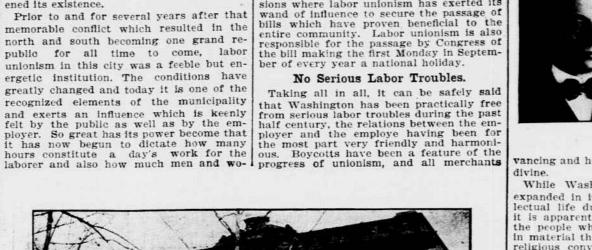
workers employed in all the various branches of the United States government. The Eight-Hour Law.

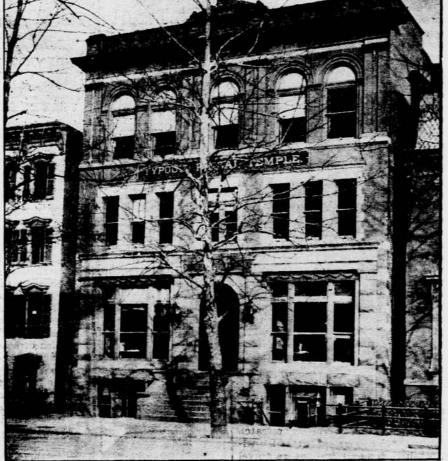
During the years 1866, 1867 and 1868, through the efforts of the labor leaders, as sisted by labor organizations of the entire country, the introduction of a number of bills and joint resolutions in the Senate and bills and joint resolutions in the Senate and House of Representatives was secured providing for an eight-hour day on all governmental work. The first bill bearing upon that subject passed the House of Representatives March 28, 1867, but was pigeonholed by the Senate.

The present eight-hour law, which passed the House Law, which passed

the House January 6, 1868, the Senate June 24, 1868, and was signed by President Johnson June 25 of the same year, provides that "eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics now employed or who may hereafter be employed by or on behalf of the government of the United States." The law was construed by the various heads of the several departments in many ways, and in consequence, in 1869, President Grant was asked to give an executive construction to the measure, which he promulgated May 19 that year. The heads of the executive depart-ments seemed to care no more for the executive construction than they did for the law itself, and as a result President Grant was again appealed to, and on May 11, 1872, he issued a second proclamation. There were few violations of the executive order until the retirement of Gen. Grant, which seemed to be a signal for an onslaught upon the law by its opponents. Since that time it has been the object of more or less attacks, but despite this it still remains in

Labor unionism was also instrumental in securing the passage of a bill providing for free text-books in the local public schools through Congress in the early part of 1891. The citizens and labor leaders worked in unison in behalf of this measure, and only secured its passage after an interesting struggle. There are numerous other occa-sions where labor unionism has exerted its





TYPOGRAPHICAL TEMPLE.

consults the Commissioner privately and men affiliated with it shall receive for their are well aware of the effects of being services.

Fifty years ago there were but four labor organizations in the District of Columbia, namely, the Columbia Typographical So-ciety, organized January 7, 1815, now known as Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101; Journeymen Bookbinders' Society, organized in 1835, known at present as Book-binders' Union, No. 4; Washington Branch Stonecutters' Assocition, organized in 1836; Washington Branch Granite Cutters' National Union, organized in 1847. These four organizations aggregated a membership of about 300. Readers may know just how much unionism has progressed in the District when informed that today there are eighty-eight unions and assemblies, which represent between 12,000 and 13,000 male and female workers.

After the Close of the War.

A few years after the close of the war of the rebellion the unionizing of the laboring people took a sudden impetus, and when the year 1881 rolled around there were about twenty-five labor organizations, The idea of forming a central body was conceived by the labor leaders of that day. Fifteen of the organizations known as assemblies formed District Assembly No. 66, under the jurisdiction of the Knights of Labor. The trades unions, numbering about ten, were not eligible to membership in this central body, and in order that the labor unions might become more solidified the local Federation of Labor was formed. This organization was composed of delegates from the Knights of Labor assemblies and of the trades unions, and was, in reality, of the trades unions, and was, in reality, an auxiliary to District Assembly No. 66, on account of the preponderance of the Knights of Labor delegates, most of whom composed the assembly.

The various crafts continued to become unionized, and when the year 1895 was reached there were forty-five local assemblies and trades union organizations represented in the Federation of Labor. The affairs of that body progressed most harmoniously until the early part of 1896, when contentions arose between the assemwhen contentions arose between the assembiles' and trades unions' representatives, and following the expulsion of the bricklayers' union for refusing to obey the orders of that body relative to a boycott which had been imposed upon the local brewers, fourteen of the trades unions with-drew from the federation and the Central Labor Union was organized. From that time on a number of the trades unions which had remained in the federation withdrew and became affiliated with the Central Labor Union. When the year 1900 Central Labor Union. When the year 1900 made its appearance all of the trades unions had withdrawn from the federation, leaving only the Knights of Labor delegates. As a result the federation was dissolved, there being no need for dual organizations of Knights of Labor.

Despite the collapse of the federation, the progress of unionism continued unchecked, and as a result Washington now has eighty-eight labor organizations, as stated above, and ranks among the foremost of the organized labor cities, when it is taken

the organized labor cities, when it is taken into consideration that it is not a commercial center, the proportion of organized workers comparing favorably to any other municipality of a like size.

Conditions of the Working Classes. Along with the progress of unionism the conditions of the working classes have become greatly ameliorated. Fifty years ago the pay of the ordinary working man or woman was a mere pittance; in fact, a man could only support his loved ones by the greatest economy and self-sacrifice. It has een only through the medium of unionism that the condition of the working classes has improved 100 per cent, and now the ordinary family can live fairly well, with a few luxuries at intervals. Through union-ism also has the educational standing of Washington's workers been greatly im-

proved.

It might be well to state at this juncture for details which would hardly be countenanced today by any city editor qualified to hold his position.

Meager Items and Small Type.

As one old newspaper man expressed it,

From this suggestion in The Star and others and Six is probable the present method of dealing with the city's canine population was evolved.

The Estimates Then and Now.

The growth of the District since the be
The growth of the District since the be
To the suggestion in The Star and others are color closely allied to red. It is a curious fact that among the Maoris of New Zealand red is the hue of sorrow. In the arrive times mourners daubed their bodies with red juices when they followed a chief to his grave, and even the resting places of the District generally, and to the people of the District generally, and to the people of the District generally.

placed under the ban of organized labor. As far as can be learned, Washington's first boycott was imposed in 1834. It was declared by the Columbia Typographical Society against Gen. Duff Green, editor of the United States Telegraph, for having introduced non-union printers and two-third apprentices into his printing establishment. This action was also the cause of a strike. and the trouble continued for three years, during which time there was a change in the ownership of the office. The member-ship of the society also instituted several strikes at the government printing office but all were of short duration, and in nearly every instance the ultimate outcome was favorable to the union workers. The printers also experienced difficulty with several r wspapers formerly published here. The printers were victorious in some of the struggles, while at other times the outcome was rather disastrous to the interests of the union. Grievances also arose between private employers and the union men.

The union bookbinders have figured in several strikes, the most important of which was that instituted at the government printing office in 1863, at which time the men demanded \$18 a week and eight hours to constitute a day's labor. After seven weeks' battle a compromise was ef-fected, the public printer allowing them the increase of wages, but stating that it was not within his power to grant a reduction in the hours of labor.

During the struggle a company of ma-rines was on duty around the printing of-

fice, and the strikers had their pickets at the railroad depots and in the vicinity of the office so as to prevent non-union men from applying for work.

One of the most important strikes insti-tuted in this city was that launched in 1866 by a number of the building trades to secure an eight-hour work day. The strik-ers were not entirely successful in this difficulty, as several of the striking organiza-tions compromised with the employers and were given a nine-hour day. The struggle affected about 2,000 workmen and lasted several months. The above-mentioned strikes are considered the most important of the labor difficulties of this city, and are spoken of merely to show that success does not come without occasional setbacks.

"They say Shakespeare had a vocabulary of over 7,000 words." "How meager! But then there were scarcely any health foods in his day."—

REMARKABLE CHANGES

FRAME BUILDINGS REPLACED BY MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURES.

The Marked Increase in the Number of Religious Societies and Homes in Washington.

By A. R. Israel.

From every point permitting a compre nensive view of the national capital there will appear in bold relief to the observer the uplifted spires of scores of churchesmonuments that bear silent yet forcible witness to the fidelity of Washington residents to their religious principles. These

> sanctuaries stand for the spiritual life of the city, for adherence to impulses of worship such as have continued to actuate mankind since the beginning of history. There is a significance in the fact that one can walk scarcely four blocks in any part of the city without coming upon one of these temples of worship built by a little band of people for a single

purpose, that of advancing and honoring their beliefs in things

While Washington has progressed and expanded in its business, social and intellectual life during the past half century, it is apparent, from these evidences, that the people who have impelled this growth in material things have not forgotten their religious convictions, nor have they been negligent in providing suitable places for public prayer and preaching, where any one who so desires may enter and join in wor-ship. The development of the churches has kept pace with the advancement of other features of higher civilization in Washington. Every section of the city has its churches in the midst of its homes. As each new locality has been built up the people have brought with them their ark of the covenant and have builded around it a shrine, where they may engage in their devotions and promulgate their religious

Development of Church Architecture.

In the architectural development of Washington during the last fifty years the churches have taken a conspicuous place, adding in detail to the plan of beauty as proposed by those who desire to see Washington the most magnificent capital of the world. The people of Washington have not been content to erect mean temples to their faith, but, consistent with the beauty scheme of the city, they have chosen rather to build splendid structures, not only beautiful, but permanent and enduring, in dicative of the principles for which they stand. These edilices represent many mil-lions of dollars; they represent years of service, and in not a few instances, the lifework of devoted men and women, most of whom have passed beyond earthly
scenes. But the wealth of influence for churches in the District, two Catholic, four good that has emanated and will continue | Congregational, seven Episcopal, twenty-

inventions, have worked wonderful changes that are noticed in the sacred architecture, as well as in other branches of the broad Development of Churches in the Past Fifty Years.

as well as in other branches of the broad art. Fifty years ago most of the church buildings in the District were low, frame structures. furnished with hardwood benches for pews, and with little or no interior or exterior decoration. The musical part of the service consisted principally of singing, accompanied, when at all, by a small organ of the melodeon type. The congregations in some instances were separated on the sex line—the men and boys. arated on the sex line-the men and boys on one side of the church and the women and girls on the other. It is evident that the members of churches in those days did not attend the services for material comfort, but there is no doubt of their earnest-

Striking is the contrast furnished by present conditions. Large brick or stone edifices with broad doors give a silent welcome to the worshipers. The structures are beautiful to look upon from the outside, while the interiors present a most inviting appearance. The light streams in mellow colors through the stained-glass windows and falls upon soft carpets and circular cash page with superstaints. oak pews, with curved backs. These are fitted in many cases with cushions and form comfortable seats for those who come to participate in the service. A grand pipe organ peals forth the strains of some soulstirring melody in mighty volume, while a choir of trained voices takes up the song in tones of joyful acclaim. There have indeed been amazing changes.

Fifty Years Ago.

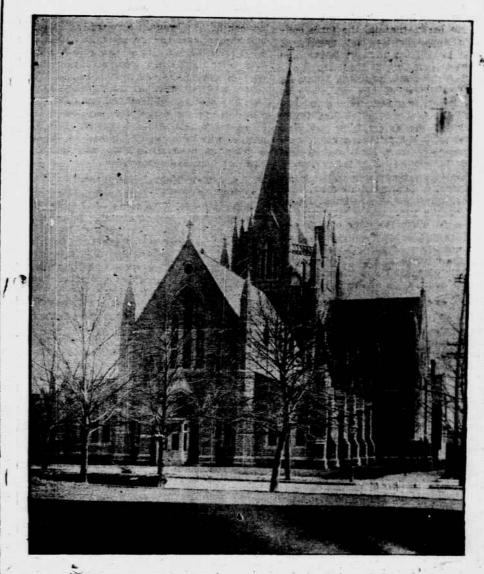
A diversity of denominations has given to the city a larger number of church buildings than would otherwise be the case Fifty years ago there were but twelve sects represented in Washington, while now there are more than twice that number The founding of churches in the capital began first in the extreme western and eastern parts of the city, but in 1852 the majority were located near what is now known as the central business portion of the city.

In demonstrating the development of the churches since the first issue of The Star, it is interesting to note comparisons as to the number of organizations then and now The twelve sects in Washington fifty years ago were represented by forty-five white congregations, with buildings erected for their own use, while there are 163 such organizations at this time. There were but nine colored churches fifty years ago, as opposed to ninety-two now. The denominations and the number of societies affiliated with each sect in 1852 were as follows: Baptists, 3; Catholic, 6; Christian, 1 Episcopal, 9; Friends, 2; Lutheran, 4; Methodist Episcopal, 10; Methodist Episcopal South, 1; Methodist Protestant, 3; Presbyterian, 4; Swedenborgian, 1; Unitarian, 1. The representation of colored churches were: Methodist, 7; Baptist, 1, and Presbyterian, 1. It will be seen that the increase in white churches has been more than threefold, while the colored churches have

ncreased more than tenfold. In the decade from 1890 to 1900 there is noted the greatest increase in the establishing of new churches, no less than thirty having been organized in that period. The colored people showed greater activity in organizing religious societies just after the close of the civil war and in the ten years following 1870.

The Churches of Today.

At the present time the Episcopal Church heads the sects of the District in the number of churches, thirty-one different societies being affiliated with that denomination. The next church in point of numbers is the Methodist Episcopal, with 27 churches, and the Presbyterian Church is third with 22. The other sects are represented as follows: Catholic, 17; Baptist, 16; Lutheran, 15; Methodist Episcopal South and Methodist Protestant, 6 each; Congregational, 4; Christian, 4; Friends, 4; Reformed, 2; Hebrew congregations, 2, and the Swedenborgian, Unitarian, United Biethren and Universalist each have one church. There are also three organized societies of Christian Scientists, two spiritualistic societies, one Progressive Brethren. and two non-sectarian—the People's and the United States Christian. All these organizations have an aggregate membership of considerably over 60,000.



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

to go forth from the churches of the cap- | five Methodist Episcopal, one Presbyterian. ital city of the nation, is beyond the scope of material computation.

To those who knew the modest little church buildings in Washington of fifty years ago, the elegant structures of today stand out as a brilliant revelation. The years, with their marvelous discoveries and

and one Swedenborgian.

Many of the churches of fifty years ago have moved from their original sites, and there are scarcely any of the old church buildings but have been improved and re-modeled, and, in nearly every case, enlarged within recent years, so that their origi-nal appearance is almost completely ob-scured. Within the past ten years the im-provement of church property in Washington has been especially noticeable. The en-croachments of business enterprises and office blocks has made it advisable for many of the churches to move their location into the residence section of the city, and a number of old landmarks have gradually given way to the progressive invasion of trade. Each change in location has been to the material advantage of the churches at least, for more handsome edifices have been erected in every instance.

Some Notable Edifices.

Among some of the most notable of the edifices are St. Patrick's Catholic Church. the Temple Baptist Church, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, the New Church (Swedenborgian), the Hebrew Synagogue on 8th street, Eastern Presbyterian Church. Dumbarton Avenue M. E. Church, Mount Pleasant Congregational Church, the new Grace Reformed Memorial Church, where the President worships; St. Peter's Catholie Church, and many others. The most of these structures are built of white stone, furnished elegantly, and with all modern conveniences, and all of them striking in appearance from the architectural point of

The organization and building of new churches continues, and several handsome new houses of worship are already planned and provided for financially. These will be erected within a few years.

As the city continues to improve and to assume its place at the head of the world's capitals, the churches of Washington will keep pace with the development in other lines and will stand at the forefront in the affairs affecting the religious world.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH.